

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A network usage analyzer, comprising:  
a network query client residing in a first network; and  
a network query server residing in a second network protected by a firewall, the network query server operable to collect usage data associated with the second network and respond to at least one query regarding usage of the second network from the network query client.
2. The network usage analyzer, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the network query client and network query server are operable to communicate using a common protocol.
3. The network usage analyzer, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the network query client and network query server are operable to communicate using Simple Object Access Protocol.
4. The network usage analyzer, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the network query server is operable to receive a query from the network query client related to how resources in the second network are used.
5. The network usage analyzer, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the network query server is operable to collect data related to how resources in the second network are used.

6. A method for accessing information of resource usage in a first network, comprising:

establishing a communication channel between a network query client residing in a second network and a network query server residing in the first network protected by a firewall;

receiving, by the network query server, at least one network usage query from the network query client;

collecting, by the network query server, information requested by the network usage query; and

sending, by the network query server, the collected information to the network query client.

7. The method, as set forth in claim 6, wherein establishing a communication channel comprises establishing a communication channel without reconfiguring the firewall.

8. The method, as set forth in claim 6, wherein establishing a communication channel comprises establishing a communication channel using Simple Object Access Protocol.

9. The method, as set forth in claim 6, further comprising:

receiving, by the network query server, authenticating information from the network query client; and

sending, by the network query server, authentication approval to the network query client.

10. The method, as set forth in claim 6, further comprising:

periodically receiving, by the network query server, authenticating information from the network query client; and

sending, by the network query server, authentication approval to the network query client in response to the periodically received authenticating information.

11. The method, as set forth in claim 6, further comprising receiving, by the network query server, network configuration information.

12. A method for accessing information of resource usage in a first network, comprising:

establishing a communication channel between a network query client residing in a second network and a network query server residing in the first network protected by a firewall;

sending, by the network query client, at least one network usage query to the network query server; and

receiving, by the network query client, information related to the network usage query collected by the network query server.

13. The method, as set forth in claim 12, wherein establishing a communication channel comprises establishing a communication channel using Simple Object Access Protocol.

14. The method, as set forth in claim 12, further comprising:

sending, by the network query client, authenticating information to the network query server; and

receiving, by the network query client, authentication approval from the network query server.

15. The method, as set forth in claim 12, further comprising receiving, by the network query client, network configuration information from the network query server.